




MEMORANDUM

Date: February 11, 1999

To: Patrick Wright, Resources Agency
Michael Spear, USFWS
Thomas Hagler, USEPA
Jerry Johns, SWRCB
Ryan Broddrick, DFG
Kathy Kelly, DWR
James Lecky, NMFS
Kirk Rodgers, USBR
Mike Bonner, USACE

From: Lester A. Snow, CALFED Bay-Delta Program 

Subject: Agency Assistance with Digitizing and Geographic Information System Analysis for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Conservation Strategy

As a follow up to a brief discussion that took place at the January 28, 1999 Agency (Small) Group meeting, we are requesting your help and asking each CALFED agency with Geographic Information System (GIS) resources to identify and provide staff to assist us over the next six to nine months. The Program has some funding for digitizing and GIS analysis but we have an urgent need for assistance from the CALFED agencies that have GIS capability because of the large workload and quick turnaround required for completion of the Conservation Strategy.

The time has arrived for the Program to lay the initial groundwork for an analysis of the impact of Stage I actions by identifying and (where possible) digitizing some of the footprints or study areas associated with proposed Stage I actions. This work is particularly important for the team developing the Conservation Strategy. Refinement of the Conservation Strategy will, in turn, allow us to refine the Ecosystem Restoration Program. In order to accomplish this, we need to digitize Stage I project locations and focused study areas, and Ecosystem Coordination and CVPIA projects that have been funded, and assess the overall affect on sensitive species and their habitats.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

We have a consultant assisting with the development of the Conservation Strategy but we have neither the time nor adequate funding to cover all the GIS work the Program has over the next nine months. Furthermore, the CALFED Program does not have in-house digitizing capability. UC Davis, Information Center for the Environment (ICE) has been helping the Program digitize and add Ecosystem Coordination (primarily Cat. III) projects to the Natural Resources Projects Inventory but the Program could use some assistance from and would like to coordinate with agencies working on digitizing CVPIA actions.

Here is an outline of the major tasks and rough estimates of the staff resources we would like the CALFED agencies to contribute to the effort.

Tasks:

- 1) Compile existing sensitive species and habitat type data;
- 2) Compile existing framework geospatial data for base maps and facilitate sharing geospatial data between agencies and consultants working on the Conservation Strategy;
- 3) Provide additional GIS support to sensitive Species Experts working on the Conservation Strategy;
- 4) Digitize Stage I Actions – primarily ERP actions/study area boundaries;
- 5) Digitize Restoration Coordination (including CVPIA) actions;
- 6) Digitize and analyze potential Conservation Measures and Recovery Planning Measures (potential habitat corridors, linkages, etc.); and
- 7) Produce maps/graphics for presentations, meetings, and reports.

Potential CALFED Agency GIS Contributions:

USFWS – 2 person-months over the next 9 months (most of the effort will probably be required in February, March, April and May of 1999).

DFG – 6 person-months over the next 9 months (we hope to have a DFG GIS technician, housed in DFG's Habitat Conservation Division, act as the primary GIS resource for the Conservation Strategy team and assist us with all of the tasks above).

USBR – 2 person-months over the next 9 months (we need assistance with acquisition of some geospatial data and would like to coordinate the digitization of CVPIA project locations).

Corps of Engineers – 1 person-month over the next 9 months (we would like to get assistance from staff working on the Comprehensive Flood Control Study team).

DWR – 2 person-months over the next 9 months (we may need particular help with data and digitizing in the Sacramento River and Delta regions).

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NMFS/USFS/EPA/NRCS/BLM/SWRCB – Many of these agencies have data or staff that may be helpful to the Program, either with the Conservation Strategy or later on as we move into the analysis of environmental impacts of Stage 1 actions. We would like to get a GIS contact and a commitment from these agencies to assist the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and its agencies with acquiring geospatial data that might help the Program meet its long-term goals and help with the development of the CMARP infrastructure.

We believe this initial GIS effort and cooperation in support of the Conservation Strategy will lead to better coordination on GIS and data management as we proceed down the path to implementation of the Program, and as we refine the development of a monitoring and research framework.

Please contact Ray McDowell of my staff at (916) 653-9499 if you have questions or comments. Thank you for your assistance.